



A Blue

A Gold

A White

B Blue

B Gold

B White

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

D Black

D Blue

D Gold

D Red

D White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Gold

O/65 Green

O/65 White

Masters Matters

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Gala Day / Christmas Party: Both these events will be a little different this year. More information can be found further on in this edition of Masters Matters.

Results from the Gold Coast: The final results of the tournament are included here for WA Metro and Country. To check for yourself use: <https://hockeyaustralia.altiusrt.com/competitions>. You may need to be able to find your way around the site to access all age groups.

O/75s: 03/10: ACT (7) WAC (2) *5th versus 6th* WA (0) Qld (3) *semi final*
 05/10: WA (2) NSW (1) *Bronze medal* Qld (0) Vic (2) **Gold medal**
O/70s: 04/10: WA (3) NSW (1) *semi final* Qld (4) Vic (1) *semi final*
 05/10: Qld (2) WA (0) **Gold medal** WAC 7th.
O/65s: 03/10: ACT (3) WAC (1) *5th versus 6th* WA (4) Vic (1) *semi final*
 03/10: NSW (1) Qld (1) 2/3 S/O *semi final* 05/10: Qld (0) WQA (4) **Gold medal**
O/60s: 02/10: WA (2) Qld (1) *semi final* NSW (1) Vic (2) *semi final*
 04/10: Vic (0) WA (1) **Gold medal** WAC 5th.
O/60s (2): 05/10: WA (0) Qld Maroon (0) *5th versus 6th* WA 5th.
O/55s: 05/10: WA (4) Qld (1) Vic (3) Qld (0).
 07/10: Vic (3) WA (0) **Gold medal**
O/50s: 06/10: Qld (2) NSW (1) *semi final* WA (1) ACT (0) *semi final*
 07/10: WA (1) Qld (2) **Gold medal**

One thing which really stood out for me was the performance of WA Country. In this event they were unable to field teams in any younger grade than O/60 and the four teams they entered managed zero wins and only one draw (O/65s) between them. The feedback which I've heard does indicate that they were competitive in most games but generally were below the standard in their age groups. The home location of next year's tournament may make stronger sides possible.

Dates For The Diary:**2022**

December 10th: Gala day. 12:00 to 6:00 pm at PHS. Nominations open.
 December 14th: WHM Christmas party. 6:00 pm onwards at PHS. D Division to play earlier.
 December 21st, 28th and January 4th: No play at PHS.
 December 24th and 31st: No Saturday hockey at Perry Lakes.

2023

Masters Interstate Championships for Men and Women. Home State WA.

September 21st to 30th: Women.	]	
September 23rd to October 1st: Men O/34, O/40, O/45.	]	Venues to be confirmed
September 28th to October 7th: Men O/50 plus.	]	PHS is primary location
These dates may all move one day forward.	]	

2024

To be advised: Masters Interstate Championships for Men. Home State Tasmania.

Tribute to Robin Bailey: Due to unfortunate circumstances, Robin has decided to move to Busselton permanently and will be unable to continue as our Uniforms Officer. He started in this role in 2008 when he took over from WHM's first Treasurer Brian Lester and has done an outstanding job ever since. So much so that Robin won the George Winning Trophy (for best clubman) in its second year of being awarded to an individual (2016). He hopes to have an occasional game of hockey down in the South West and we may even see him up here while the housing and the move are being organised. I have suggested to him that he makes sure he's up in Perth on December 10th and puts in a nomination for the 80s match. We are very sorry to see you go Robin and many thanks for all the hard work. From all of us at WHM we extend our best wishes for your 'retirement.'

The new Uniforms Officer will be Peter Wallis who is currently out of hockey action due to a health issue. He should be back on deck fairly soon.

MM's limeric comments:

So now we farewell Robin B

In Busselton's where he will be

He's done a great job

On shirts for the mob

And even hit passes to me.

The last line is personal. It was not uncommon for Robin to provide the only touches I got in a game. He even managed to lay on a goal for me in the S/W tournament in 2019. Thanks Robin B. Ed.

Tribute to Jim Wright: It is also with considerable regret that I heard the news of Jim's retirement as a player and from the Saturday Committee. He joined WHM very shortly after I did and we played in the same competition ever since. In addition to several years as captain of various Wednesday sides Jim was the inaugural Vice-Captain of our Saturday competition when it kicked off in 2013 and has continued in the role for the last 10 years. His service has been outstanding in each and every year. In addition to organising our weekly post-hockey snacks - either a rostered player, delivered pizza or a sit down dinner to wind up a season he (and Beth) have frequently catered superbly themselves. An email from our pizza supplier (Pizza on Cambridge) in response to Jim's retirement reads: "Thank you for your email. It has been a pleasure working with you." He even has sent bulk emails for me (as Secretary) after my internet service provider was taken over and withdrew the facility from me. As well as this he did a terrific job as team player-manager for the Gold Medal winning WA Over 70 Black team at the Perth interstate championships in 2014. His exceptional service culminated in receiving the George Winning Award in 2020. You'll be greatly missed Jim, but it will be good to see you occasionally on a Saturday for a drink and a chat.

PS: At the time this issue was closed off Jim is having some trouble in departing from all his Saturday hockey jobs. I'm certain that we will keep finding more tasks which used to be done by him. Ed.

WHM Gala Day: As our number of teams has expanded and extended our Wednesday playing times to a range from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm it has become more and more difficult to fit in all our normal fixtures as well as the Orthopaedic Challenge (Hips/Knees) and Survivors Cup Hearts/Cancer). The D Division now play during the normal times for our annual Christmas Party, which in the past has also been held on the same date. This year the Gala day has been moved to Saturday 10th December and will aim to give as many players as possible the opportunity to have a run. Please nominate to Dan Hill via <https://revolutionise.com.au/westernmasters/events/163003/>

On 14th December which is our last Wednesday playing date before Christmas we will be winding up with a normal Christmas party. The planned start time is 6:00 pm and we will try to finish D Division games early. Cost per head is \$35 - numbers and money in advance. Watch your emails.

Letters To The Editor: Thank you to Leon Wende of D Division who sent me a most interesting piece about hockey in Israel. That begins on Page 9. No other correspondence was received.

Department of Health: Phil Metcalf was back in the A Division on 19th October after a lengthy absence, but appeared to have lost nothing of his menace in the circle (see A Division Page 5). Brian Soares has now scheduled his operation for 15th November - hope all goes as it should. I hear that the reason John Ree has not played for a while is because he has a hamstring injury. Hector D'Rozario has been through a dose of Covid and his return to the turf on the 19th was cut short. Ian Hill has been through his cardiac operation which appeared to have been successful judging by how well he looked at Perry Lakes on Saturday the 22nd. It was a surprise to see Tony Jones appear in the ABC news bulletin on 30th October in a story about Long Covid, which he apparently has had the misfortune to contract. It is obvious that there are many ailments which I have not heard about, so best wishes from Masters Matters to all the sufferers for a speedy and complete recovery.

Department of Corrections: The 'Masters Matters' staff gathered in the conference room for the review meeting following the October edition. "Obviously nobody is reading us" declaimed the Editor. "That's now three consecutive months that no errors have been reported." He announced a Christmas bonus for all the staff, which was that they would be permitted to keep their jobs. If they did not like it, then they were very welcome to go and join the competition. "Who does he think he is? Rupert Murdoch?" muttered the typist and proofreader as they departed.

Player Birthdays: If you do not want to have your birthday included in Masters Matters then please contact the editor at the email address johnmercer@iinet.net.au.

Please let me (and Colin Gee) know if there are any errors or misspellings. We stress again that there is no compunction to buy drinks for the bar on either a Wednesday or a Saturday.

Happy November birthdays to all the following:

A Division: 19th Graham Challenor (1946) 30th Sukhdev Pander (1946).

B Division: 2nd Angelo Strano (1948) 12th Peter Eastlake (1950).

C Division: 5th Carlo Sorci (1970) 9th Ian Kealley (1949) 10th Ian Simes (1954) 17th Geoff Robinson (1955) 22nd George Naylor (1955).

D Division: 13th Michael Jensen (1960) 14th Warren Noddings (1963), Anton Brown (1970) 15th Tom Vince (1959) 25th Michael Starling (1966) 30th Nick Hyde (1966).

Saturday: 16th Ashley Challenor (1948) 21st Howie Herbert (1942), John Pierce (1946)

Past Players: 4th Roger Partington (1947) 10th Bill Baldwin (1942) 24th Peter Aylmore (1952).

I hope that you're named in the correct WHM Division. And there are no non-preferred names. Ed.

From our Membership Administrator: *Repeat from the previous issue. It's still needed as I keep hearing about people who are not receiving the newsletter email, or did not get the nomination form for the Gala Day. Note - the link to register for the Gala Day can be found on Page 3.*

Hi, to those of you receiving this newsletter but are not a registered or a playing member of WHM, without any cost we would like you to join our club. Under our RevoSport management system we are trying to ensure we have the ability to maintain communication with each and every person past and present who has an interest in hockey, particularly Wednesday Hockey.

To ensure we remain in contact with you, we would like you to register. This will afford you regular information and invitations to the events of Wednesday Hockey.

Please follow this link www.revolutionise.com.au/westernmasters/home/

and use the registration process following the prompts and register as a non playing member.

There is no cost to this registration.

We look forward to you joining us.

Kind regards - Colin Gee

Quotable Quote 1: "A person is never happy except at the price of some ignorance." *Anatole France 1844 - 1924. So if you know all about the current world situation you will not be happy? Ed.*

'A' Division Blog: We seem to be struggling, but from what I've seen of the B and C Divisions so is everybody else. The post-tournament slump has made a comeback from the pandemic and is just as strong as it ever was. Now is the time to get in some hockey before the warm weather returns.

October 5th: *I was not able to make PHS. Many thanks to Colin Gee and Dan Hill who each provided a report on the day's play. Only one turf was in use.*

Colin: "Two teams of players assembled at 2 p.m., with two Goalkeepers and 2 umpires and played 4 games of 20 minutes for the afternoon.

A good group of A and B and C division players, predominantly from A and C divisions. Good hockey was enjoyed by all those present with all players being brought into the games making it a good afternoon, completed by fellowship in the bar after the games."

Dan: "We had two teams and played 4 x 20-minute games. A good spread of players across A, B and C divisions with two teams evenly matched. A very enjoyable afternoon and no rain!"

October 12th: Despite there being only one goalkeeper and low numbers we did our best to play the scheduled fixtures, but had to skip the last match. By then most players had filled in at least once. Considering the time lag since we had last played the standard of the hockey was surprisingly good at times, but not always. Many thanks to Tony Marshall who stoutly defended the scoreboard end all day and most of us found that scoring was easier when heading southwards. The goal of the day judges had a conference in the bar afterwards and decided that the equaliser scored by John Jeffreys with less than 15 seconds to go in the last game played was the winner. The day's details:

Blue 2 White 0; Gold 1 White 1; Gold 1 Blue 0; White 0 Blue 0; White 1 Gold 1.

Scorers: **Blue:** Ken Beer (2). **Gold:** Nev Brown, John Mercer (2). **White:** John Jeffreys, Ron Venables. Team numbers at maximum were: Blue (10), Gold (9), White (7). Total goals 7.

October 19th: Blue began with 10 field players, which possibly was not an advantage. White and Gold started short and each lost a player during the day, which eventually resulted in the last game not being played again. The scores of the matches played indicate that Gold dominated but such was not the case, with plenty of chances at both ends. The Gold defence led a charmed life with almost all the shots wide of the target or saved. Goalkeepers Graeme Sansom and John Burt were kept busy all day and each of them saved well on multiple occasions. Phil Metcalf and Ken Walter were back after lengthy absences but picked up where they left off as the scorers list shows. Phil had a couple of posters too, while Ken's day ended early, colliding with an opponent while filling in for White in the third game. Both players went to ground, which caused concern among the spectators. White lost Hector D'Rozario early to injury. Many thanks go to non-playing umpires Jim Balding, Peter Galbraith and Aubrey Byrne-Quinn. ABQ was apparently there to see Peter Jones, who was not there, so he umpired instead. Gallows was early for B Division and was good enough to give us a hand. The goal of the day judges were unanimous in making the award to John Jeffreys (two weeks in a row) for a superb scoop over the keeper and into the far top corner. The day's details:

Blue 0 Gold 2; White 1 Gold 2; White 1 Blue 2; Gold 4 Blue 0; Gold 2 White 1.

Scorers: **Blue:** Phil Metcalf (2). **Gold:** Ken Beer, Mal Jackaman, KY Lee (2), John Mercer (2), Ken Walter (3), Frank Williams. **White:** John Jeffreys, Neil Patterson, Ron Venables.

Team numbers (regular sides): Blue (10), Gold (9), White (8). Total goals 5.

October 26th: At the moment the White team has only 10 possible players, though I hear that the return of Hector D'Rozario and Colin Murray-Smith is imminent. Despite that we managed to play the full fixtures for the first time in a while; albeit with only one goalkeeper. As has now become customary Graeme defended the scoreboard end all day but the 'no hitting' rule made it tough to score at the southern end, as did the gritty defence of the various temporary custodians. As a consequence goals were at a premium, but there could no rival to Ken Walter's goal of the day angled deflection. Good to see a comeback from Mal Horrigan and a cameo from Chip Challenor. Peter Murray transferred from Gold to White for the day. The results and scorers were:

Gold 1 White 0; Blue 0 White 1; Blue 0 Gold 1; White 0 Gold 2; White 0 Blue 1; Gold 0 Blue 0.

Scorers: **Blue:** Phil Metcalf. **Gold:** Colin Gee (2), John Mercer, Ken Walter. **White:** Ken Eliot.

Team numbers: Blue (10), Gold (11), White (7). Plus a couple of games from Chip. 6 goals scored.

From Saturday Masters:

Another AGM is now behind us in our 10th year of operation. The minutes have been circulated thanks to Jim Wright, so I will not cover anything here except the major news items.

Jim has retired from the Committee after 10 exceptional years and was unanimously voted as our second Life Member. The presentation included a gold shirt with the Life Member details added as shown in the photo below. A more complete tribute appears earlier in this edition on Page 3.

As has become customary the culinary arrangements for our dinner following the AGM were excellent. Another great job from Jim and WA Spit Roasts.

Bruce Mercer has joined the Committee following the AGM. He will not take over immediately from Jim in all the various and many tasks which kept JW busy but will have the opportunity to work up more gradually. Best wishes to Bruce and thanks for being prepared to volunteer.

Many thanks to our Club Captain Les Waldon who approached the captains of the Subiaco-Floreat 3rd and 4th Grade sides and negotiated access to the showers before the meeting. We will let you know if and how this can apply for the rest of the summer.

Les Waldon and new Life Member Jim Wright



Make sure that you book in to play by responding to the “are you playing” email well before 12:00 noon on Fridays. And if you’ve booked in and can’t make it, then please notify us about that too.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: “Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.” *H. G. Wells (1866 - 1946). From ‘Outline of History.’*

Balinese Bulletin No 74: Update From Up Here.

BALISAME BUT DIFFERENT

Closing in on 10 years here in Bali we have lived in this lovely Balinese home for almost the past 7 years. Unfortunately we're in countdown mode leading up to us having to relocate on the 2nd November. This home is jointly owned by 2 brothersone quite pleasant whilst the other not so. Well, long story shortplanned redevelopment has forced us to look for alternate lodgings. We have been unable, til now, to find another suitable smaller, less expensive, dwelling. What we now have is a single unit in a 10 unit Homestay not too far from where we currently are. The single bedroom & adjoining bathroom looks out into a garden with a central pool.

We will continue to look for something a little larger whilst learning to adjust. Our Balinese Daughter, Putu, will continue to look after us & help with these 2 elderly Aussies. The sad thing is we will have to re-home our beautiful dog(Goldy) & equally beautiful cat(Megs). They will both move in with Putu & Family as they all know each other.

Life, as we all know, continues to offer up little surprises like this so we will just have to get on with it & move forward. Other than this we are both relatively well & coping.

Peter Hammond

By the time this issue comes out Peter and Erin will have moved house. We all hope it went according to plan and the settling in period will be smooth. All the best in finding a new place. Ed.

Shakespeare Said It: "Leave off discourse of disability." Two Gentlemen of Verona Act II, Scene IV. *The older we A Division players become the more we discuss our various ailments in the bar. There are also a lot more ailments to discuss the older we get.*

"The skies look grimly, and threaten present blusters." The Winter's Tale Act III, Scene III. *Weather forecast for the Gold Coast tournament?*

"... my dull brain was wrought with things forgotten." Macbeth Act I, Scene III. *Saturday hockey Secretary/Treasurer at the AGM.*

Well Dones for October: Wednesday's 'A' Division umpires were: Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Aubrey Byrne-Quinn, Ken Eliot, Peter Evans, Peter Galbraith, Colin Gee, Mal Jackaman, Peter Jones, KY Lee, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Peter Trend, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts, and Frank Williams. Saturday's umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Michael Gottschalk, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Len Walker, Ken Watt and Jim Wright. Our thanks to you all. Also, very well done to all those who helped with the clean-up after our AGM dinner at Perry Lakes. In addition to the Committee members special thanks go to Murray Matthews, Rod Spencer and Ivan Wilson (that's in alphabetical order).

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players October: Noted at PHS were: Jim Balding, Aubrey Byrne-Quinn. At Perry Lakes: Eric Alcock, Robin Bailey, Terry Gaston, David Lester, Neil Scaddan, Heath Tyrrell, Len Walker and Jim Wright. As my notebook went missing on 26th October I may have missed some of you - hope not.

Punology One: There was a Mexican migrant to the US who went to his first Major league baseball match. His friends asked him how it had all gone. He replied that it had been marvelous and the spectators had been very kind to him. When asked how he said: "It took me some time to find my seat and by the time I got there the game was about to start. Then the crowd all stood up and sang "José can you see?"

Does anybody not know the first line of "The Star Spangled Banner?" Better learn it now before it becomes compulsory. Though the title fits our Narrows Bridge; that Car Strangled Spanner.

B Division October 2022:

As expected numbers have been down for October following the State Championships on the Gold Coast where at least 80% of the playing group participated. After 2 weeks of intense meetings, strategy and analysis, with the odd game thrown in, most players needed a rest to rejuvenate their aching and injured bodies. Some of those just returned from the Gold Coast didn't bother to risk a light run on a Wednesday afternoon but jetted off mid October to Tokyo for the Grand Masters World Cup event for a few more games and general sightseeing. Those that did turn up were split into two teams and games continued until everyone had had enough and the lure of refreshments beckoned! By the end of the month there was a recovery in numbers and by early November teams should be back to full strength with just the "normal" amount of injuries and distractions.

From all reports those that went to the Gold Coast enjoyed themselves and competed with endeavor and distinction. Some commentators and keen observers have noted that due to the unique set up of Wednesday Hockey Masters it is a major factor to the ongoing success of the WA Masters teams. I think the fact that WA has a lot of very good hockey players has a bit to do with it as well!!

From time to time especially in our age bracket not only injury but illness gets in the way of our cruisy life. Greg Allen is one of those currently in hospital battling the big C. Roger Davey is also undergoing treatment and courageously still turning up for a run! Ron Mitchell ruptured his Achilles on the Gold Coast and will be on the sidelines for quite some time. We send them and all others beset by illness or injury our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.

Dudley Evans

Thank you again Dudley. Your regular reports are much appreciated by an editor who is a bit concerned that Masters Matters may turn into an A Division only chronicle. Ed.

World Cup Results: I have had the good fortune to have been able to report from the last four World Cups as a participant in the Tournament Trophy section (now Spirit of Masters) and had every intention of going to this one in 2020 until a combination of prostate cancer and the Covid-19 lockdowns put an end to it. The low level of participation in the Tokyo event must have been very disappointing for the Japanese, but I believe that the quarantine restrictions were not lifted until many potential players had decided that they were not attending. Here are a few of the results. I do not know if WHM had any players in the Australian sides, though we certainly did in the national O/75 team which was not able to compete due to the lack of opposition.

O/60: World Cup Grand Final: England (1) Australia (2).

Spirit of Masters Medal Playoff: Japan (1) Southern Cross (2).

O/65: World Cup Grand Final: Australia 4 Ireland (1).

Spirit of Masters: Southern Cross were 3rd in a World Cup pool (4 wins 2 losses).

O/70: World Cup playoff for bronze: Australia (2) Japan (1). (*Wales beat South Africa for the gold*).

Spirit of Masters: Southern Cross Gold, Alliance Silver, Japan Bronze. *Scott Blackwell played in the Southern Cross side and Nev Brown played for Alliance.*

Welcome To New Players: WHM welcomes the following new players, and we hope that you enjoy your time with us:

WHM Members: Apologies to Ken Eliot (A Division) who should have appeared here months ago.

Saturday Members: Alan Oldfield, Chris North.

Grumpy Old Men And Women Two: "That all men are equal is a proposition which, at ordinary times, no sane individual has ever given his assent." *Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963).*

Bonus Quote: Thank you to John Sanders for this one. "The interesting thing about coaching is that you have to trouble the comfortable, and comfort the troubled." Ric Charlesworth. As John says, this applies to any coach, any sport.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

October's question was: According to the 24 May 1956 edition of the Argus in Melbourne a lone goal by fast-moving forward Joyce Gibellini, of W.A., brought Australia a hard-earned victory over **XXXX** in the opening games of the women's international hockey carnival in Sydney today. England completely outclassed India to win 18-nil. After the match, critics tipped England to win the unofficial championship, the 1956 IFWHA tournament.

Was the missing opponent

- a. Netherlands
- b. India
- c. England, or
- d. New Zealand?

No answers came in. John gives the solution as a) Netherlands in Australia's 42nd international.

November's question is: These players have played in a number of FIH Champion Trophy matches for the Kookaburras,



Who do you think has played in the most? Was it

- a. David Wansbrough
- b. Daniel Sproule
- c. Paul Gaudoin , or
- d. Lachlan Dreher?

Answer next issue.

Punology Two: Apparently Apple are currently designing an electric car to get into the big market of the future. But they are having a lot of trouble installing the Windows.

Player Biography: I have sometimes expressed regret at the lack of coverage of our younger age groups in 'Masters Matters.' What follows comes from our D Division and reveals something which I doubt that many of us were aware of. Did you know that they play hockey in Israel? Over to Leon.

I thought I'd share with you some of my early personal background in hockey as it is far from the usual story!

Being born in Perth and spending my childhood here I, like many others, played hockey from a young age. But when I was 13 the family emigrated to **Israel**. At that time (late 70's, early 80's) field hockey was pretty much unknown in Israel, being played only by a few diehard expats and immigrants mainly from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and England. These immigrants to Israel had brought their passion for hockey with them, along with their sticks and balls and other gear - which is most fortunate as this equipment was simply not available there.

It turns out there were only about six or seven teams in the entire country. That's *teams*, not *clubs*! One of them was a girls team organised by the American International School and coached by one of their teachers, Glen Whiteside, a New Zealand expat who played A grade hockey back home. Another team was formed mainly of Indian and Pakistani players who were living near the Tel Aviv area and were very passionate about hockey.

/10

In our mid teens, my younger brother Simon and I soon found a fledgling team in **Netanya**, a coastal city in the region where my parents had decided to settle the family. This team comprised mainly English and South African immigrants, of all ages. We were very passionate about our sport that we grew up with and did everything we could to foster its acceptance in Israel as we didn't want to lose it. (The common ball sports in Israel then were handball, soccer and basketball)

So, at the age of 15, this meant taking the bus into Netanya after school (a 45-minute trip) and teaching hockey to any Israeli kids who were interested, and running workshops and demo games at different schools. All this while learning the Hebrew language and trying to settle into a new (and difficult) country. These "training" activities were arranged by immigrant adults who played hockey in England or South Africa.

In Israel at that time there were only four hockey fields, all grass. I think two of them had proper goals. Hockey really was an unknown animal, and people would gawk at my brother and me when we toted our stick bags around school and on the buses as they were a most unusual accessory! (In Israel, a suspicious eye was and is always cast on unknown objects - but especially if it resembles a rifle.)

My parents had developed a close friendship with the director of Israel's **Wingate Institute of Sport** who, through their influence, allocated a soccer field to become a hockey field. Dad, who had a nursery workshop, allowed me to use the help of one of his workers to fabricate a set of primitive hockey goals – from iron and timber and they were heavy as lead! - and he donated them to Wingate. Slowly, hockey started to build...

Playing hockey on a gravel, sand, bitumen or open field were commonly done in those early days. In Netanya, we trained and played some games in an open field, amongst weeds and dirt, with very rudimentary line markings. It was tough and good enough, appropriately reflecting everything else about Israel in those days.



Figure 1: Youth tournament in Tel-Sheva, 1982. I am in the middle at back, my brother Simon (in blue shorts) on my right.

In **1982** (when I was 17) a group of South African hockey players in Israel decided to try and introduce (or at least demonstrate) the sport to young people in Israel's south. A six-a-side youth tournament was arranged, with two levels: experienced players and newbies.

The venue was **Tel-Sheva**, a small Bedouin village about a 2 hour drive from where my family lived. The Bedouin kids from Tel-Sheva along with some kids from **Omer** (a Jewish town nearby) of course had no idea what hockey was. The youngsters from **Netanya** formed a formidable hockey team as at least we could all play! The photo (Figure 1) shows the conditions: hot and dusty (as it's desert region), playing on gravel and sand and dust. Apart from winning the tournament, our hard-fought games against other experienced youth served as a bizarre demonstration of hockey to Bedouin kids who were most unlikely to ever see a hockey stick again!

/11



Figure 2: At age 20, on a “real” hockey field at the Wingate Institute of Sport.

Another highlight of playing hockey in Israel was that, due to the players mostly being expats with connections back home, there were lots of visiting **international** teams and consequent **invitational** games. These opportunities were a highlight in the fledgling Israel hockey scene: they made for very challenging hockey against established and trained teams whilst presenting us with a steep but beneficial learning curve. Equally importantly, they provided an interesting social setting around the games. I remember playing against a South African university touring team, and a German invitational team. My parents, being Australian, hosted (with a traditional Aussie BBQ) the Australian Men’s hockey team to the **12th Maccabiah Games** held in 1985.



Figure 3: Me at age 18 (second from goalkeeper), playing against German invitational side at Tel-Aviv University. The Berman brothers (umpires) are in the centre. Captain (“15”) is Leon Lipworth, and coach is Glen Whiteside (white shoes and socks).

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Needless to say, there were not many hockey officials in Israel in the 80s and we all just had to make do and get by. However, for all of the important or high profile games, two South African brothers always stepped up: Neville Berman was an ex-Springbok captain, and brother Beryl was (I believe) a SA (or FIH) certified umpire. These two were committed to progressing hockey and did way more than their fair share of umpiring and fostering that sport in Israel.

In my early 20s I was drafted into the defence force but continued to play hockey. The defence force recognises country-level sportsmen and made special dispensation for me to participate in the **13th Maccabiah Games** (1989). Our coach was Glen Whiteside (the New Zealand expat) and captain was Leon Lipworth (a South African immigrant). There were four countries participating in the Men's hockey tournament: **Australia, South Africa, Israel** and **Belgium**, and that is the order in which we finished. For me, playing for Israel but having roots in Australia, I was somehow proud at having been thrashed by Australia!

A year later I left Israel and returned to Perth where I continued to play hockey, eventually finding my way to the **Rockingham District Hockey Club**, where I still play.

Leon Wende

Thank you Leon for a great read. I'm continually amazed at the difference in the paths we all took to reach WHM - everyone included here has been much more interesting than mine.

Saturday Hockey AGM Dinner



Quotable Quote Two: "If the English language made any sense, a catastrophe would be an apostrophe with fur." *Doug Larsen (1926 - 2019). US journalist.*

Change of Details: In the event of any change to your email address and other details you should notify Colin Gee, our membership administrator, whose email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:

John Mercer: A Division Gold team. Email: johnmercer@inet.net.au.